

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-13 were pending in the application and were rejected in the Office Action. Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-13.

By way of this amendment, Applicant has not amended the claims but has, however, amended the specification and drawings to overcome the outstanding rejection and objection, as later discussed in detail. Accordingly, claims 1-13 are respectfully resubmitted, in their original format, for further consideration.

1. Information Disclosure Statements and Priority Document

Applicant appreciates the indication (by way of initials) that the Examiner has reviewed each of the references submitted with the Information Disclosure Statements filed on July 9, 2003 and November 19, 2003. Applicant would appreciate a similar indication that the Examiner has received the priority document JP 2002-207381 (which was originally filed in Japan on July 16, 2002) that was submitted in the P.T.O. on July 9, 2003.

2. Rejection of Claims 1-13 and Objection to the Drawings

The Office Action rejected claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1 as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Office Action states that: “The description of the oil pump is inadequate.” Similarly, the Office Action objected to the drawings for allegedly failing to show the oil pump recited in claims 1-13. For the following reasons, Applicant respectfully disagrees with both the rejection and the objection.

In supporting the rejection of claims 1-13, the Office Action cites to page 13, lines 21-28. However, as the Office Action quotes page 13, lines 21-33, Applicant assumes that the Office Action intended to cite to lines 21-33. As amended, the cited text provides the necessary support for the “oil pump” recited in claims 1-13. Specifically, the paragraph on page 13, lines 29-33 has been amended to add a reference number “57” for the oil pump; the reference number “57” has correspondingly been added to Figures 10, 11, and 20-22 to show the location of the oil pump in the speed change mechanism. Further, as one of ordinary skill in the art would, upon reading the specification and viewing the drawings, understand the location of the oil pump, the oil pump is properly supported under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1.

For at least the aforementioned reasons, Applicant respectfully requests a withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-13 under § 112, ¶ 1 and the objection to the drawings.

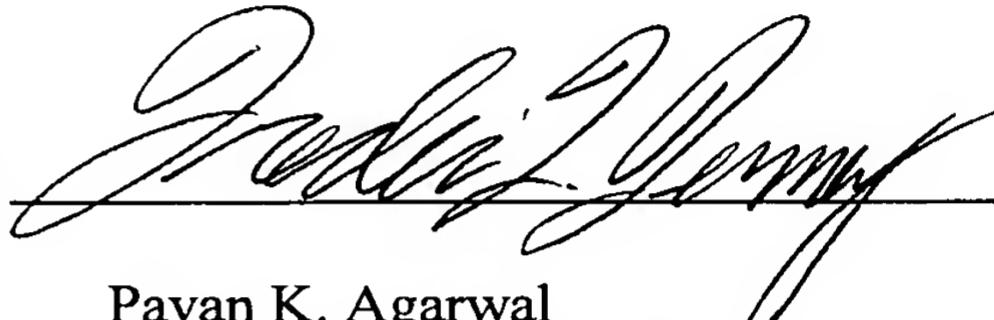
CONCLUSION

For the aforementioned reasons, claims 1-13 are now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if such communication would expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date _____

By



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THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED REGARDING THIS APPLICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT, TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741. SHOULD NO PROPER PAYMENT BE ENCLOSED HEREWITH, AS BY A CHECK BEING IN THE WRONG AMOUNT, UNSIGNED, POST-DATED, OTHERWISE IMPROPER OR INFORMAL OR EVEN ENTIRELY MISSING, THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE THE UNPAID AMOUNT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741. IF ANY EXTENSIONS OF TIME ARE NEEDED FOR TIMELY ACCEPTANCE OF PAPERS SUBMITTED HEREWITH, APPLICANT HEREBY PETITIONS FOR SUCH EXTENSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 AND AUTHORIZES PAYMENT OF ANY SUCH EXTENSIONS FEES TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figures 10, 11, and 20-22 have all been amended to include a reference numeral “57” for the oil pump discussed on page 13, lines 29-33 of the specification.